

As for Davoust, I felt my hands tied with respect to him. I do not mean to affect generosity, for I acknowledge the enmity I bore him ; but I did not wish it to be supposed that I was acting towards him from a spirit of personal vengeance. I therefore merely ordered him to be watched. The other twenty-three were to me in this matter as if they had never existed ; and some of them, perhaps, will only learn in reading my Memoirs what dangerous characters they were thought to be.

On the 15th of March, after the conversation which, as I have already related, I had with Louis XVIII., I went to M. de Blacas and repeated to him what I had stated to the King on the certainty of Bonaparte's speedy arrival in Paris. I told him that I found it necessary to devote the short time «till in our power to prevent a re-action against the Royalists

Having timely intelligence I hastily took measures for my escape. The agents of police had already proceeded to active search in my apartments, when the Prefect commissioned an officer to the order of the now Prefect presented 'themselves before me. Those men, who had so long obeyed my orders, not daring to lay their hands on my person, contented themselves with giving me their written authority, I took the paper, opened it and confidently said, 'This order is not regular: stay where you are while I go and protest it.' I entered my study, heated myself at my desk and began to write. I then rose with a paper in my hand, and making a sudden turn, I precipitately descended into my garden by a secret door: there I found a ladder attached to a wall contiguous to the hotel of Queen Hortense. I nimbly climbed it; one of my people raised the ladder, which I took and let it fall on its feet on the other side of the wall; this I quickly adjusted, and descended with still more promptitude. I arrived, in the character of a fugitive, at the house of Hortense, who extended her hospitality to me; and, in a few moments, by a sudden transition of an Eastern tale, I suddenly found myself in the midst of those friends of the Bonapartists, in the head quarters of the party, whom I found in excellent spirits, and where my presence added to the re-juicing" (Pouche's *Memoirs*, tome i.). Fouché, after making his escape, went straight to the hotel of Hortense, the ex-Queen of Holland, where he was welcomed by the Bonapartists, who had made that their headquarters. He himself made little doubt that it was not Napoleon that he and his friends had hoped to meet at the head of the Government instead of the old Bourbon. He acknowledged this openly, saying, for example, to Monval, long secretary of Napoleon, and who remained faithful to the Emperor, "Be he in *hier*. He is not the man wished for, but he cannot be taken away like a chess pawn. We will see what we can do to keep him." — "I," says Monval (tome ii. p. 11) "told the Emperor of this, he doubtless knew what to expect from me for he only shrugged his shoulders as a sign of contempt." See also (tome xix. p. 213) for a curious conversation of Fouché with a man from the King, before Napoleon arrived, when he intimated that he would probably soon be a Minister of Napoleon, but only to betray him. Louis Bonaparte, however, avowing his dislike for Fouché, declares that it is not true that Fouché betrayed the Emperor during the *Usurpation* (*Littérature*, tome iii. p. 214).